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Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories

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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is mandated by General Assembly resolution 58/105 and is a compilation of replies from Member States related to scholarships and training facilities available to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/59/50.

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I. Introduction

1. By General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) of 22 November 1954, Member States were invited to extend to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories offers of facilities not only for study and training of university standard, but also for study at the post-primary level, as well as technical and vocational training of immediate practical value.

2. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 1696 (XVI) of 19 December 1961, offers extended under resolution 845 (IX) are communicated by the Secretariat to the administering Powers to enable them to give appropriate publicity to the offers in the Territories under their administration.

3. Information on scholarships offered by Member States under the programme is made available to prospective applicants. Reference to the programme is included in the thirty-first edition of the handbook entitled *Study Abroad*, published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

4. Under the terms of General Assembly resolution 845 (IX) and subsequent resolutions,[1] the Secretary-General submits to the Assembly each year a report containing detailed information on the offers made and the extent to which they were utilized.[2] The present report, which covers the period from 2 April 2003 to 15 April 2004, is submitted in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 58/105 of 9 December 2003.

II. Scholarship offers and awards

A. Offering States

5. Over the years, the 56 States Members of the United Nations listed below have offered to make scholarships available for the use of inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories in response to the aforementioned resolutions:

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia.

6. One non-member State has also offered scholarships:

Holy See.

B. Offers and awards

Member States

Antigua and Barbuda

7. In a note verbale dated 2 March 2004, the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General that there are at present somewhere in the vicinity of 3,500 Montserratians living in Antigua as a result of volcanic activity in the Emerald Island. There are approximately 600 pupils and students attending schools ranging from kindergarten to the State College, all free of charge. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda makes available all elements of its educational system to school age individuals, and has totally incorporated them into the structure of the twin-island state.

Argentina

8. In a note verbale dated 25 February 2004, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations informed the Office of the Secretary-General of the following views of the Government of Argentina:

> "The Malvinas Islands were registered by the United Kingdom as a Non-Self-Governing Territory. This registration is a consequence of the illegal British occupation of the Argentine territory that occurred in 1833.
>
> "The United Nations has, on many occasions, indicated that the colonial dispute existing between Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning these territories should be resolved through peaceful negotiations.
>
> "Without prejudice to this and since the islands form part of the national Argentine territory, its inhabitants enjoy — just like the rest of the Argentine population — the benefits of the National Scholarship Programme offered by the Ministry of Education of the Argentine Republic."

Cuba

9. In a note verbale dated 26 March 2004, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations informed the Secretary-General about the scholarships for the territory of Western Sahara granted up to January 2004. There are presently 731 Saharan students in Cuba in the following areas:

At intermediate level, 17 students in nursing and laboratory technology;

In higher education, 40 students in medicine, stomatology, degree-level nursing and degree-level health technology;

In higher education, 180 degree-level students of various disciplines in engineering;

In higher education, two degree-level students in physical education and sport;

At intermediate level, 22 student mid-level specialists in accounting and agronomy;

In higher education, 32 students in various teaching disciplines;

At secondary and pre-university level, 438 students on the Isla de la Juventud.

10. The Government of Cuba also granted a further scholarship for Western Sahara at the International School of Physical Education and Sport for the 2004-2005 academic year, bringing the number of Saharan students in Cuba to 732.

11. We are also pleased to announce that an additional 14 scholarships will be awarded for Saharan students finishing their pre-university studies on the Isla de la Juventud this academic year, which does not affect the total number of students, and will be in the following areas: teaching (degree in natural sciences) — 1; teaching (specializing in primary education) — 1; teaching (specializing in pre-school education) — 1; mid-level accounting specialist — 1; mid-level agronomy specialists — 2; degree-level chemistry — 1; degree-level biology — 1; degree-level mathematics — 1; mechanical engineering — 1; hydraulic engineering — 1; veterinary medicine — 1; telecommunications engineering — 1; and food technology — 1.

Japan

12. In a note verbale dated 1 April 2004, the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that the Government of Japan has offered to make the following types of scholarships available to inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories:

– Research Student

– Special Training Student Scholarship

– Japanese Studies Student Scholarship

A Research Student Scholarship was granted to one Non-Self-Governing Territories inhabitant in 2003.

Mexico

13. In a note verbale dated 2 April 2004, the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that the Mexican Government's Scholarship Directory for foreign students, which is published every year, contains a specific programme for residents of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The programme includes offers of scholarships for teachers and students wishing to study the Spanish language and Mexican culture at the Foreigners Teaching Center (CEPE) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Taxco campus. It also includes scholarships for studies in a specialty or for a master's degree or doctorate or to carry out doctoral research and post-doctoral stays at academic institutions in Mexico. The 2005 Scholarship Directory can be consulted on the electronic page http://becas.sre.gob.mx. It should be pointed out that the only Non-Self-Governing Territory which has applied for scholarships since 1999 is the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, which receives four scholarships per year from the Government of Mexico.

New Zealand

14. In an electronic communication dated 29 March 2004, a representative of the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that a number of Tokelauans are currently studying at regional institutions such as the University of the South Pacific and the Fiji Medical School. Four Tokelauan

students are attending University in New Zealand at the present time, and four pupils are attending secondary schools in New Zealand. A number of Tokelauan pupils are also attending secondary school in Apia. All these courses are covered by scholarships awarded and administered by Tokelau. A number of in-service training courses are also run in such areas as nursing, teaching, management and trades. Funding for this comes from the relevant section of the budget, much of which is sourced from New Zealand as economic support. Each year Tokelau determines its needs and priorities for training and study awards in these areas.

Sweden

15. In a note verbale dated 25 March 2004, the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that the Swedish Government offers a number of scholarships for advanced academic studies or research in Sweden. Students and researchers from all over the world, except from the Nordic countries, are welcome to apply for the scholarships, including those from Non-Self-Governing Territories. Unfortunately, no holder of a scholarship has so far been from a Non-Self-Governing Territory.

Switzerland

16. In a letter dated 25 February 2004, the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that although Switzerland does not offer scholarships specifically for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories, the Swiss federal policy for scholarships is indeed open-ended and scholarships are accessible to students of all geographical origins.

Trinidad and Tobago

17. In a note verbale dated 19 April 2004, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations forwarded documentation on Commonwealth Scholarships tenable in Trinidad and Tobago in respect of postgraduate study and offered as part of the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. The scholarships offered are intended for men and women of high intellectual promise who may be expected to make a significant contribution to their own countries on their return from study aboard. The Trinidad and Tobago Commonwealth Programme will provide opportunities for students of other Commonwealth countries to pursue advanced programmes at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad.

Eligibility

18. Scholarships are open equally to men and women who are citizens of another Commonwealth country and who are normally resident in any part of the Commonwealth other than Trinidad and Tobago. Scholarships are available for postgraduate study in all areas of study except medicine, at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. Candidates must possess a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent, with at least lower second class honours from a recognized university, for studies leading to the Master's degree and a Master's degree for studies leading to the Ph.D. degree. There is no age restriction. However, preference will be given to candidates who have obtained a university degree within the past five years. The duration of awards will be as follows:

(a) Master's — 18 months with no provision for extension;

(b) M.Phil. — 2 years with provision for extension for a maximum of six months;

(c) Ph.D. — 3 years with provision for extension for a maximum period of one year.

19. The continuance of each award from year to year will be conditional upon the satisfactory progress and conduct of the holder.

Value of awards

20. The awards cover the following expenses:

Transportation by air from the nominating country to Trinidad and return for the scholar, as arranged by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;

Tuition and examination fees:

- Any other compulsory university fees (excluding broad and residence fees);
- A personal maintenance allowance of TT$ 3,000.00 per month to cover board and lodging, daily travel and personal expenses;
- Cost of approved travel connected with the course of study in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to a maximum of TT $720.00 per annum;
- Book allowance of TT$ 2,000 per annum;
- An allowance of TT$ 2,500.00 to assist with thesis preparation.

21. Reasonable hotel charges, as agreed upon by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, for a period of one (1) week after arrival in Trinidad to permit the scholar to find suitable accommodation. As no dependent allowance is payable, it is essential that scholars who plan to bring their family to Trinidad and Tobago have sufficient financial resources for their support. If these resources are not available, serious consideration should be given to leaving the family at home. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago will not be responsible for meeting the cost of airfare for the scholar's spouse and children, who must have return tickets to their homeland valid for the duration of their stay in the country. The above allowances are not subject to tax in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

General conditions of awards

22. All scholars must return to their own country at the end of their scholarship. All scholars must follow the approved course of study and abide by the rules of the University of the West Indies. An award may be terminated at any time for reasons of unsatisfactory conduct, for a breach of the conditions of awards or for failure to make satisfactory progress. Scholars will not normally be permitted to take up paid employment during the course of their awards. Scholars will be expected to reside in Trinidad and Tobago throughout the duration of their awards and to seek prior approval for any proposed visits abroad.

General information

23. The grant of an award is conditional upon the scholar gaining admission to the relevant programme of study at the University of the West Indies. Once selected for an award, scholars will be required to submit application forms for admission to the University of the West Indies directly to that institution. All applicants whose native language is not English would be required to perform satisfactorily in an English proficiency test set by the University of the West Indies. Arrangements would be made for the test to be administered at a recognized university nearest to the candidates.

Applications

24. All applicants must submit six (6) copies of the application on the prescribed form together with six (6) copies of all supporting documents, except the birth certificate, of which only one (1) copy is required. Application forms may be obtained from the Commonwealth Scholarship Agency in the applicant's own country.

United States of America

25. In a note verbale dated 5 April 2004, the United States Mission to the United Nations informed the Secretariat that the more than six thousand United States nationals and citizens who are graduated each year from the twelfth grade in American Samoa, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands are entitled to the same scholarships and financial aid as their fellow nationals and citizens in Hawaii and the United States mainland, including those deriving from non-governmental sources, such as from a university itself. United States nationals and citizens from American Samoa, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands who are post-secondary students are eligible for public-sector scholarships and financial aid along the same terms as their fellow nationals and citizens in Hawaii and the United States mainland. In addition, universities may receive Pell Grants from the United States Department of Education for such students. Of university students from American Samoa, Guam and the United States Virgin Islands, most qualify for and do receive some sort of scholarship or financial aid. For example, in financial assistance per fiscal year to students from Guam, the United States Department of Education, through its Pell Grant Program, pays American universities approximately $6,400,000 and pays more than $4,072,000 as direct student loans; the comparable figures for the United States Department of Education's financial assistance per fiscal year on behalf of or to students from the United States Virgin Islands are $3,400,000 and more than $3,162,000.

III. Applications made through the United Nations

26. In accordance with the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 1696 (XVI), applications for scholarships received by the United Nations Secretariat from inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories are transmitted simultaneously to the offering States for consideration and to the administering Powers for information.

27. Between 2 April 2003 and 15 April 2004, the Secretariat received requests from seven students for information on the availability of scholarships. None of the students were inhabitants of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

IV. Conclusion

28. Scholarships and training facilities offered by Member States to the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories represent a valuable contribution to their educational advancement.

Notes

[1] The most recent resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on this question are resolutions 54/86, 55/140, 56/68 and 57/134, 58/105.

[2] For the most recent reports, see A/53/262 and Add.1, A/54/267, A/55/81 and Add.1, A/56/88 and A/57/90 and Add.1, A/58/71.